

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

February 4, 2022

Dates to Remember

February 16, 2022 – Special Magistrate Hearing

February 17, 2022 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

February 21, 2022 – City Commission Meeting

Office of the City Manager:

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

A top Commission priority for the past couple of years has been improvements to the City's infrastructure. In the case of most of the service areas including particularly transportation and public utilities, this can be a protracted process to identify necessary funding and acquire the requisite permits and approvals to move forward and then the contracting and actual construction process is typically also lengthy. Such has been the case with several of the major projects approved and soon to be underway in Clewiston. Further complicating the process this past two years has been the impacts of the pandemic state of emergency on pricing and supply chain matters.

Overall, I am pleased with the process to get projects moving for which the City has been able to secure funding thus far and 2022 is looking very promising in terms of actually accomplishing a number of these infrastructure enhancements. Recently, the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) improvements in the vicinity of the recreation area were completed allowing improved use of facilities. This was timely as the Clewiston and Roland & Mary Ann Martin Marina are hosting the largest fishing tournament ever this week with 271 boats registered and 500-600 anglers participating.

As for other projects, most notably of late has been movement on the long awaited replacement of all the electric and water meter hardware for all customers with modern technology that will allow much improved customer service, accuracy in billing and reliability. The contractor has begun preliminary steps and customers can expect to see new meter installations in the coming months. Another long planned project is under contract with final preparations complete and construction eminent to resurface the East Ventura Avenue street section and improve drainage in adjacent areas. The section of the street from South Francisco street to Deane Duff Avenue will be completed in the first phase. Funding for the next phase of improvements to Ventura Avenue for the area between Deane Duff and W.C. Owen has been secured with planning for that section to hopefully be reconstructed in 2023.

Bids have been recently received for the biggest City improvement of late with a contract soon to be awarded for the C-21 elevated bridge project to improve access to the HHD and lakefront area. Construction on this project should begin in a few months and end early next year.

The City has a number of other utility related projects underway as well that will greatly enhance water and wastewater services. Additional projects to upgrade several public facilities and buildings are also in process and nearing completion or planned to begin soon including particularly a major renovation to the youth center and other recreational facilities around the community.

Additional details on these and other initiatives were reviewed in greater detail in the “state of the city” report I released in December if more information is desired. The bottom line is we truly have a lot to be thankful for and the support and patience of the Clewiston community for the City’s efforts is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the City of Clewiston.

Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- Alan Jay Chrysler Dodge Ram Jeep has submitted plans for a brand new dealership. Their new building will be erected in the same spot where their old building now sits.
- VIA Clewiston Partners LLC’s new building permit for Commerce Park Industrial District has been approved and should begin construction soon.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

- Get all information of what’s going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.
- Get on our E-mail list by going to the City of Clewiston Website. Go to the golf course division and at the bottom of the page you can sign-up on Constant Contact and get all Clewiston Golf Course information.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:15am-5:00pm. The first tee time is 7:30am. Carts are due in at 5:45pm daily. The golf course is open 7 days a week. Tee Times are required. Contact golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Golf Course has a driving range. The driving range has lights which means you can hit golf balls after (Night Time) hours. Tokens for the range ball machine can be purchased in the golf shop or the Clewiston Police Department after hours.
- Golf lessons and Club Repairs are available at the club from PGA Professional Robbie Rush. Contact golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Monday Special after 12pm 18 holes with cart \$30.00 plus tax per person.
- Walking is permitted all day.
- 2-Person Team Tournament was January 22, 2022. Congratulations!! Haitham Kaki and Travis Page the winners.
- Debbie Miller is the 2022 Clewiston Golf Course CLGA Ladies Club Champion.

- Parent-Child Championship is scheduled for February 5, 2022.
- February 8, 2022 there's a ladies golf clinic scheduled at 8:30am. The lesson will be on Sand Shots and is free of charge.
- Glow Ball (Night Golf) Tournament is Friday Night 6:30pm start February 18, 2022.
- CLGA Rally for the Cure Tournament is Saturday February 26, 2022.

For more information call the golf shop 863-983-1448

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- **Operating Hours-**
 - Monday through Friday: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 - Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED
- The library continues to follow all CDC guidelines such as social distancing and recommending face masks to be worn while in the library, but are not required. If you have any questions, please call the library at 863-983-1493. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.
- The library has partnered this year with the United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties to offer free tax preparation services to moderate and low income families. Please call the library to schedule your appointment. Please be aware that if all slots are full, be sure to leave your name and contact number so that we can call you back when an additional appointment slot becomes available. Tax preparation staff are consistently reviewing and updating the calendar and adding additional days and times in order to accommodate all community members in need. So please be sure to leave your contact information if all slots are full at the time you call.
- Library staff provided ready reference assistance, circulation activities, computer assistance, and patron programming to 1,007 patrons this month.
- This month's programming activities have included:
 - Free Comic Book Day which was held on January 24th
 - Virtual Lego Club on January 5th and 12th
 - The Adult Book Club met on January 31st to discuss, Lady in the Lake by Laura Lippman. Come join the fun at our next meetings: March 7th at 2:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. to discuss the newest book club title, Finlay Donovan is Killing it by Elle Cosimano. With lively discussions, this group truly enjoys their meetings as they exchange their thoughts about each new title.
- Virtual programs have continued for all patrons. Programs vary monthly so be sure to check out our Facebook page to remain up to date on our upcoming activities. Below are the programs for next month:
 - Virtual LEGO Club Via Zoom: February 3rd at 3:30 p.m. To participate, please join our Facebook group and please register by calling 863-983-1493 or email library@clewiston-fl.gov
 - Anime Club Via Zoom: February 21st at 3:30 p.m. Ages 11 and up. Please register by calling 863-983-1493 or email library@clewiston-fl.gov
 - The library will also be hosting Nailed it: Snack Decorating Wednesday, February 9th at 3:45 p.m. Ages 6-12. Supplies are limited, please register by calling 863-983-1493 or email Diana at library@clewiston-fl.gov This program is designed for children and accompanying adults.

- Did you know you can earn an accredited High School Diploma and a Career Certificate through Hendry County Libraries? There are still scholarships available from the State of Florida which allows residents the ability to earn their High School Diploma for free and from the comfort of their homes. To learn more about the program, including how to enroll and available scholarship opportunities, visit <http://www.hendrylibraries.org> or call the [Clewiston Public Library](#) at 863-983-1493.
- Needing a computer at home or a laptop to travel with? The Clewiston and Barron Libraries have partnered with Computers for Kids which is able to provide you an entire desktop computer for as low as \$40 (tower, flat screen monitor, mouse, and keyboard included)-wifi card is available for only \$15 and laptops as low as \$75.00. Stop in at either branch to check the inventory that is available.
- Need a place to hold a meeting? What about a computer lab to host your organization's/company's training? The Clewiston Library offers a classroom and computer lab with a total of 16 computers for use. For more information or to secure the room, please stop in or call the library at any time.
- If you have not done so already, please join our Facebook page (Clewiston Public Library) in order to remain up to date on the library's events and programs.
- **Recap of Upcoming Events:**
 - February 3rd at 3:30 p.m. – Virtual LEGO Club
 - February 9th at 3:45 p.m. – Nailed it: Snack Decorating
 - February 11th – Take & Make: DIY Heart Plastic Canvas
 - February 15th at 3:30 p.m. – Anime & Manga Club
 - February 16th at 3:45 p.m. – Crafternoon: Air-Dry Clay
 - February 21st at 3:30 p.m. – Anime Club Via Zoom
 - February 23rd at 3:45 p.m. – Creative Corner: Intro to Macrame
 - February 24th at 3:45 p.m. – LEGO Club: Balloon Powered Race Cars

Code Enforcement Officer Debbie Clay reports:

**IS YOUR SWIMMING POOL IN COMPLIANCE WITH CITY OF CLEWISTON
ORDINANCE?**



City of Clewiston Ordinance

Sec. 110-2. - Definitions and construction.

Swimming pool means a portable pool or permanent structure that contains a body of water **18 inches or more in depth of 250 square feet or more of water surface area and intended for recreational purposes, including a wading pool.** The term "swimming pool" excludes an ornamental reflecting pool, fish pond, or other type of pool, regardless of size, unless located and designed so as to create a hazard or be used for swimming or wading.

ARTICLE VI. - SUPPLEMENTARY DISTRICT REGULATIONS

Sec. 110-524. - Fences, walls and hedges.

(18) Swimming pool enclosures. **All swimming pools must** be within a screened cage, **or shall** be enclosed on all open sides by a fence which is a minimum of four feet above the existing ground grade and a maximum of six feet above the existing ground grade. All gates which are part of a pool fence or screening cage **must** have safety locks.

Our Code Enforcement personnel will begin focused enforcement in February 2022 on this ordinance as well as continued enforcement of all City of Clewiston Ordinance.

The complete City of Clewiston Ordinances is available online and may be accessed utilizing the City of Clewiston website: <https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/> or Municode Library website: https://library.municode.com/fl/clewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances

If you have any questions about how to achieve/maintain compliance with this or any other City of Clewiston Ordinance you may contact our office at 863-983-1454 extension 309 or Code Compliance Supervisor: debbie.mcneil@clewiston-fl.gov

Police Chief Tom Lewis reports: Police Department

Over the past few months, Police Explorer Sergeant Ward has organized the construction of a picnic area for department employees. This project assisted in his pursuit to be an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. We were quite impressed with craftsmanship that went into every detail. Thank you for your time and effort, Explorer Sergeant Ward!



On January 24, 2021, Chief Lewis was named to the Florida Police Chiefs Association's Professional Standards Committee. The committee assists in the development and evaluation of all educational programs; oversees and facilitates the Executive Search Program, with an interest in maintaining the quality of police management in Florida; reviews and recommends deletions, changes and/or additions of the Bylaws to the Board of Directors and members; and, at the direction of the Board of Directors, reviews complaints of ethical misconduct, determines facts, and reports findings to the Board.

On January 25, 2022, Chief Lewis participated in Literacy Week by reading to students in the four kindergarten classes at West Side Elementary School.

On January 27, 2022, Chief Lewis and the police department teamed-up with the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce for Coffee with the Chief. The event was held at Sonny's BBQ and is an opportunity for anyone in the community to learn more about the inner-happenings at the police department as well as Animal Services in a relaxed conversational environment.



Animal Services

New Employee – Please help us welcome Abigail Colston as our newest part-time Kennel Technician. Abigail is currently in college to be a zoologist and we are capitalizing on her passion for animals. With the addition of Abigail, our work force at the shelter is full! We are excited to have her on board.



In the month of January 2022, Animal Services reported the intake of 1 rabbit, 20 cats and 63 dogs.

On January 19, 2022, Animal Services and Chief Lewis joined the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce and Seacoast Bank to host an animal awareness and adoption event at the monthly Chamber Social. Buster, one of our longest shelter residents, was adopted at the event – we couldn't be more happy.



Upgrades continue to be made at the shelter facility. This past month, we installed a new commercial grade stainless steel animal wash station. This new addition will increase safety for our animals, volunteers, and staff. It will also make the area easier to sanitize – promoting a healthier environment.

Since December 2, 2021, Animal Services transitioned to being open seven days per week! We encourage members of the public to visit the shelter and find your fur-ever pet and to visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ClewistonAnimalControl>, where you can see the latest news and pictures of our four-legged friends.

Highlighted Training

January 9th through 11th, Chief Lewis attended the Florida Police Chiefs Association's Mid-Winter Training Conference in Orlando, Florida.

FYI – February 4, 2022



Training classes covered Intelligence Led Policing, Mass Violence, Improving Hiring and Retention, and a panel of Police Chiefs and their City Managers. In addition, there were 160+ vendors on site. Governor Ron Desantis spoke at the opening ceremonies, expressing his support for law enforcement.

Over the past several months, the police department has developed new accreditation-compliant training programs for new officers, new detectives, new dispatchers, and new supervisors. These training programs range in length from 3 weeks to 14 weeks and will provide our employees with solid guidance in legal mandates, policy and procedure, and best practices.

On January 25, 2022, the police department hosted members of the Lee County Animal Cruelty Taskforce. They provided animal cruelty investigations training to our Animal Control Officers, new police officers and our Detective.



Other News

On January 5, 2022, Chief Lewis and Operations Commander Tito Nieves took a tour of US Sugar operations. The tour started with an in-depth discussion on crops, observation of a crop burning and harvest, and observation of harvest transportation to the mill, via train. Once at the mill, we were able to observe the initial processing of the sugar as well as the storage. A huge thank you to US Sugar for having us – it was an awesome learning experience.



General Services Director Danny Williams reports:

The city awarded a contract to All Florida Contracting Services, LLC to install a permanent emergency generator at the wastewater treatment plant. All costs associated with the project including equipment (a 230kW generator), project management and the \$60,000 construction cost will be reimbursed with funds from a Florida Department of Environmental Protection grant award.

- **Facility Maintenance Activities:**

- Staff made repairs to the score keeper boxes at the Ball Fields.
- Staff also repaired the Stalls Field concession stand roof.
- Staff repaired five air conditioners at city owned facilities.
- The Youth Center remodeling project continues: new double doors, toilet fixtures and stall doors were installed, and the interior walls received a fresh coat of paint.
- Staff made repairs to playground equipment at Sikes Park and Sweetest Town Playground.

- **Street Division Activities:**

- Christmas decorations have been stored for next year.
- Staff has been trimming hedges and small trees in our small park areas.
- The pothole crew continues to stay on top of the pothole issues in town.

- Staff continues to help keep the street clean by picking up debris piles with our backhoe and dump truck while the grab loader is repaired.
- Staff repaired a catch basin damaged by traffic on Central Avenue.
- Staff continues to pick up palm fronds from city streets.
- Staff has spent extra time cleaning up the Public Works compound removing all debris, making room for storage of equipment, and other housekeeping.
- Staff has hauled (120) yards of bulk mulch that was donated from Old Castle Lawn & Garden for the 2022 Sugar Festival and it will be put into place next month to prepare for the upcoming festival.
- **Solid Waste Activities:**
 - Even with a shortage of grab loaders, staff works hard with the rear loaders to keep our streets as clean as possible.
 - The residential collection truck rental was returned to the vendor RDK this month after getting our equipment back in working condition.
- **Ballfields Activities:**
 - The new bases are starting to arrive, and all clay areas are being refreshed for the upcoming season.
 - All structures have been pressured cleaned and inspected for repairs.
 - The crew trained to use the street striping machine to line the fields while we await the new line marking machine.
 - Try outs and early practice has begun for the Clewiston Tiger teams.
- **Central Garage Activities:**
 - Staff has worked with the Street Department to take all of the city's surplus equipment to the Weeks auction for the February auction at the old runway on the 18th and 19th of next month.
 - Staff continues to keep our equipment maintained even with a constant wait time for parts from all of our vendors.
- **John Boy Auditorium Activities:**
 - The New Year has already begun and bookings are running steady.
 - Staff continues to clean and maintain the building and staff events as necessary.
- **Electric Crew Activities:**
 - installed all primary underground connections and a new service for the Alan Jay auto dealership;
 - removed wood pole behind the old police department building and installed new transformer bank;
 - repaired a faulty service wire to residence;
 - installed new underground primary and service to the fairgrounds;
 - repaired street lights;
 - removed vegetation from power lines;
 - installed four more transformers at Sweet Lake Villas and ran wire for ten electric services;
 - removed eight old poles abandoned by cable company;
 - installed new service on 8th Court;
 - disconnected three services for contractor to remove old trailer;
 - reseated fuses at transfer station;

- transferred eight services from overhead transformer to pad mount on W. C. Owen Avenue;
- disconnected service for solar installation contractor;
- finished converting service to underground in plaza on W.C. Owen Avenue;
- replaced cutout on pole by utility shop.
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities:**
 - assisted county repair 4” sewer break along the industrial canal;
 - repaired water line breaks on Ventura Avenue, Pinewood Avenue, Ridgeview Circle, and 4” water line on W. Arcade Avenue;
 - repaired and replaced pumps at three lift stations;
 - relocated a water line at Sweet Lake Villas.
- **Customer Service Department**
 - Your Utility partners with customers to bring renewable power to the electric grid. If you’d like to learn more about net metering, please visit the FTC consumer information site at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0532-solar-power-your-home>.
 - Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom of the City’s website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
 - If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or attic insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you more information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
 - *IT’S LIGHTNING SEASON!* Don’t forget to sign up for your meter based surge protection! Visit our office today.
 - ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.